



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Axxam and ZoBio Form a Strategic Alliance Integrating their Drug Discovery Services Platforms**

Milan (Italy) and Leiden (Netherlands) - 14 January 2019 - Axxam, the leading drug discovery company with expertise in early phase discovery biology, and ZoBio, the leading contract research organization in integrated fragment-based drug discovery, announce a strategic alliance to provide a combination of integrated discovery services spanning all phases from gene to fully optimized leads.

This alliance provides our partners access to a synergistic, industry-leading, integrated toolbox of protein production and engineering technologies and screening methods using cellular, biochemical, high content and biophysical assays. These capabilities are used to probe our innovative small molecule and fragment libraries for ideally behaved hits that can be evolved with our focused medicinal chemistry expertise supported by NMR and X-ray crystallography-based structural biology, all under a single, seamless contractual arrangement. The Axxam and ZoBio collaboration brings together decades of experience with unbeatable technology to help you to overcome your greatest drug discovery challenges.

Stefan Lohmer, co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Axxam, commented, "We are very pleased to announce this strategic alliance with ZoBio. Both Axxam and ZoBio share a common philosophy based on excellence and creativity in biology. Axxam is a biology-driven company with a deep understanding of targets, assay development and high throughput screening, with a culture of scientific excellence and the attention to delivering the quality results our clients need and expect. The complementary technical skillsets between Axxam and ZoBio provide a seamless suite of options to our clients looking to interrogate pharmacologically challenging drug targets with a variety of complementary platforms."

Gregg Siegal, Chief Executive Officer of ZoBio stated, "Fundamentally, HTS and fragments offer tremendous complementarity with the result being a far more robust drug discovery campaign. Our biophysical approach allows us to select for molecules with the desired mode of action whereas Axxam's cellular and biochemical expertise selects molecules with the desired biological activity. While the science of our two companies is orthogonal, we share a deep commitment to excellence, which is why this is the perfect collaboration."



***For more information about Axxam, or to speak with Stefan Lohmer, please contact Sabrina Corazza at +39 02 2105634 or [sabrina.corazza.sc@axxam.com](mailto:sabrina.corazza.sc@axxam.com). For more information about ZoBio please contact Gregg Siegal at +31 71 2040581 or [gsiegal@zobio.com](mailto:gsiegal@zobio.com).***

#### **About Axxam SpA**

Axxam SpA is a privately owned iPRO (innovative Partner Research Organization) and discovery company located at the Science Park OpenZone in Bresso (Milan, Italy). The Company is a leading provider of discovery services for the entire life sciences industries as: pharmaceutical, crop protection, animal health, cosmetics and nutrition. Axxam has a strong expertise across a broad range of discovery disciplines and innovative technologies, including: assay development, compound management, HTS, hit identification and hit validation. Axxam is also engaged in developing novel innovative therapies for diseases with a high unmet medical need. For more information, please visit [www.axxam.com](http://www.axxam.com).

#### **About ZoBio**

ZoBio offers proprietary, orthogonal technology and more than 15 years of experience to enable its integrated fragment-based drug discovery engine for a wide range of pharmaceutical targets. The engine is based on a platform of high throughput protein engineering, highly diverse fragment libraries, proprietary biophysical screening technologies and complementary structural biology approaches designed to provide data in the broadest possible target space. We synthesize this information to generate actionable medicinal chemistry hypotheses to bridge the divide between fragment and lead. For more information, please visit [www.zobio.com](http://www.zobio.com).